

Chicago State University
Special Meeting - Board of Trustees
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Academic Library – Auditorium, Room 415
March 1, 2013
8:14 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Trustee Gary Rozier, Chairman
Trustee Zaldwaynaka “Z” Scott, Vice Chairman
Trustee Lisa Morrison Butler, Secretary
Trustee Michael Curtin
Trustee James T. Joyce
Trustee Anthony L. Young
Trustee Stephanie Sanchez, Student Representative

Others Present

Mr. Wayne Watson, Ph.D., President
Mr. Patrick Cage, Esq., General Counsel for Labor and Legal Affairs
Mr. Langdon Neal, Board Attorney
Ms. Farah C. Muscadin, Esq. Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Ms. Bonnie Phillips, Assistant to Ms. Farah C. Muscadin

1. Call to Order

Trustee Rozier called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was verified and roll call was taken.

3. Verification of Meeting Notice

The meeting notice was posted as mandated by the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

4. Recess into Executive Session Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Curtin moved to recess into Executive Session. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

5. Reconvene into Open Session

Attorney Langdon Neal presented the Board of Trustee grants chairman to enter into contracts for professional services. Trustee Joyce moved to pass the resolution. Trustee Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

6. Other Matters

Chair Rozier stated that comments would be limited to two minutes without personal comments.

a. Public and Employee Comments

Dr. Laurie Walter, President Faculty Staff Union asked what just happened?

Alderman Roderick Sawyer

Alderman Sawyer wants Dr. Watson's vision for CSU to be realized. He supports the work that is being done at CSU and support Dr. Watson. Alderman Sawyer stated that Dr. Watson works well with both staff and the administration.

Senate President Emil Jones (retired)

President Jones expressed strong support for Dr. Watson, who has a history as an educational leader. President Jones stated that Dr. Watson supports this University and its students. He stated that he does want to see the President released for ridiculous reasons. President Jones stated that he has a vested interest in the University and noted the \$200,000 that CSU receives in scholarships from the institution, which he is tempted to ask for the money to be returned. President Jones stated that Dr. Watson has led the charge with the Pharmacy Program and Convocation Center just to name a few of his accomplishments. He noted that the Trustees need to make sure those resources, such as the 2% of gaming license gets to the university.

Victor Henderson Esq.

Mr. Henderson who is Dr. Watson's attorney stated that events need to be put into context. When you are trying to create a culture of change, you have to fight and there will be forces that don't want to see change. Mr. Henderson noted that Dr. Watson has led us here and he is the one to lead CSU forward. Dr. Watson has helped put the Chicago back in Chicago State University. This is about the people here trying to get an education.

Charles Stevens, (Student) CMAT

Mr. Stevens stated that he was a former student of Kennedy King College and that he is aware of Dr. Watson's good work. How will the departure of Dr. Watson affect the students and what changes can be expected. He stated that Dr. Watson needs more time.

Minister Sylvia Jones

Minister Jones agrees with previous speakers regarding Dr. Watson's good work. She was not involved with CSU until she was invited by Dr. Watson to attend a clergy meeting. Minister Jones stated that Dr. Watson should remain as President and the HLC report is a determining factor.

Dr. Fatimah Muhammad, Adjunct Professor

Dr. Muhammad stated that her Mother and Father graduated from CSU and that she loves this place. She is an Adjunct Professor who voted for a no confidence vote against Dr. Watson and believes that the faculty is disrespected and over worked.

Professor Charles, Adjunct Professor

Professor Charles stated that he is a proud alum. He stated that there needs to be a new direction, new leadership, and a new structure at CSU. The University needs to move in a positive direction and decisions for students; staff and faculty should be in the best interest of the University. He stated that he has spent 15 years trying to obtain employment from the University.

Larry Vivens, New Beginnings Church

Mr. Vivens expressed his support for Dr Watson and stated that he did not have a personal agenda. He stated that Dr. Watson opened the doors for high schools to come to CSU and that this is about the kids we need to put them first.

Ebony Blair, Student

Ms. Blair stated that she has been on campus for the last five years. There are a lot of personal agendas. She noted that she has nothing personal against Dr Watson, but wants what is in the best interest of the students. She believes that the faculty and administration have done a great job.

Jonathan Jackson, Professor

Mr. Jackson stated that he gives his support to Dr. Watson and noted the tremendous change on the campus. He noted that CSU is an emergency room in the university system. The actions of the Board have been extremely disruptive and this could have been done another way. The President works on behalf of the students. Mr. Jackson stated that he is not a part of the union.

Mr. O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor stated that he is a 1978 graduate from CSU and that his daughter graduated in 1990 and his brother in 2010. Mr. O'Conner noted that the papers report that enrollment is down, however all schools have seen a fall in enrollment, and at the end of the day it is about what is in the best interest of the students and it is about the institution.

Ashley Foster, Student

Ms. Foster a senior at CSU spoke about the lack of resources. Ms. Foster stated that he started with 5 classes and received calls from a faculty member stating that classes were being dropped. She was dropped from two required classes. She asked where were the politicians before Dr. Watson was in the media. The education she receives is great but the leadership needs to change.

Rev Andre Smith

Rev. Smith stated that he was sad to be here today. Rev. Smith stated that when the University was in need of a president and it was on life support one man gave the students and the University the ability to hope and dream again and that was Dr. Watson. Rev. Smith asked the Board to look at their consciences.

Mr. Estes, Community Resident

Mr. Estes stated that he is proud to say that Dr. Watson has led the charge on and off for 30 years fighting for education and equality.

Willie Preston

Mr. Preston stated that he is a student at CSU—we need to talk about the 22 million the state owes the university. He has had an open door policy with students.

Eldridge Dockery

Mr. Dockery stated that perception is stronger than truth and we want CSU to take the safe image. We should not make a move because we get donations. Mr. Dockery gave his compliments to the staff and faculty.

Martin King

Mr. King thanked the Board and Administration and the President and Provost for allowing cooler heads to prevail. He asked that the vote be delayed until next week. He stated that there needs to be time to read the HLC report and find a solution that benefits the students. Mr. King note that we are here for the students and that we need to work on getting the money for the University.

Ismael Reyna

Mr. Reyna thanked Dr. Watson and noted that he was a recipient of a scholarship. He asked the media to be mindful of what they put in the papers because it affects the students.

Ashton Valentine

Mr. Valentine, a student stated that CSU is a hidden gem. He stated that the negative press that the University is getting is not a good thing. Mr. Valentine noted that he has seen some good changes at CSU that were greatly needed.

Alejandro Rodriguez

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is a student and graduate of City Colleges of Chicago. He stated that he has a lot of respect for Dr. Watson and that he is the reason he chose to come to CSU. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he felt out of place when he came to the University last year. He noted that he has seen change and the increased diversity.

Jokari Miller

Mr. Miller a former President of the Student Government Association at Kennedy King College stated that he is a member of the student resistance movement. He considers this to be a war and educational oppression.

Dr. Kelly Harris

Dr. Harris noted that he is a political scientist and he enjoys teaching here. He has received help from his peers, staff and students. He came here because Chicago has a rich black community.

Teran Williams

Mr. Williams stated that the Board needs to be smart in with their decision. Mr. Williams stated that the students should be surveyed so that she can have something some input in the decision and this would be something tangible for the next board meeting.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.